

**Statement Mary Costello and Gerard Costello, Parents of Tadgh Costello 20th March 2015**

Today is a day we as a family have waited for almost 9 years. It marks the end of our struggle to get justice for our very brave little boy, Tadgh. It is also the day on which we dare to hope that life will become a little easier for Tadgh, for us his parents and for our other three wonderful children, Kate, Pat and Grace.

We are a happy and united family and look forward to the future with joy and optimism.

Since the day Tadgh was born he has had to meet so many unnecessary and arduous challenges in the course of his young life - a childhood punctuated with all too frequent hospital stays and medical interventions. Nonetheless, and to his credit, Tadgh has met all adversity with great courage, patience and a sense of fun. Nowhere is his good humour and love of life more evident than in his interaction with his brother and sisters.

Today's settlement will allow us to provide the 24 hour specialist care which has been denied for all his life to date. It is unacceptable however, that the HSE have denied liability for the last 9 years.

It is our dearest wish that no other family would have to endure this period of intense suffering caused by the inexcusable delay in accepting responsibility for an injury to an innocent child.

If there is one piece of advice we could give to any other family who find themselves in a similar circumstances, it would be to emphasise the absolute importance of engaging a firm of Solicitors who specialise in medical negligence. We have experience of the alternatives. Without the work of our team at Ernest J Cantillon, we would never have got to where we are today.

Finally, and on that note we would like to sincerely thank our brilliant legal team, Ernest Cantillon and Susie Elliott and our family and friends and anyone else who has helped us fight our battle. No matter how great or small your contribution, it is much appreciated.